

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 25, 2008
6:30 PM**

The Pike County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, November 25, 2008 at 6:30 pm in the Pike County Commissioners Meeting Room, Zebulon, Georgia. Members present were presiding Chairman Steve Fry, Commissioner Tommy Powers, Commissioner Roosevelt Willis and Commissioner Parrish Swift. Also in attendance were County Attorney Rob Morton and County Manager Steve Marro. Commissioner Jake Garner was not present tonight.(O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2))

CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING TO ORDER AND ASKED EVERYONE TO JOIN HIM IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (1)

The agenda was amended as follows:

Addition under County Manager Report to show:

1. Donation of Dabbs' Property
2. Emergency response update
3. Forthcoming Sign Ordinance recommendations

MOTION

Commissioner Powers made the motion for approval of the agenda as amended. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2008 AT 6:30 PM PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2)

MOTION

Commissioner Willis made the motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Monthly Meeting held November 12, 2008 at 9:00 am as corrected. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES-MONTHLY REPORTS SUBMITTED FROM COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND AUTHORITIES

Commissioner Willis questioned the amounts on the last page of the Road Department report stating that it showed that 8522.9 gallons of gasoline cost only \$8523.37. County Manager Marro said that he'd check on this.

MOTION

Commissioner Powers made the motion for acceptance of the monthly reports submitted from County Departments and County Authorities as submitted. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES-COUNTY MANAGER REPORT

1. Donation of Dabbs' property. County Manager Marro gave an update on the Dabbs' property. Citizens in the area had suggested that the county check for potable water, saying that they might not be able to get water. Mid Georgia Water is going to drill the first two holes for free but there will be a cost for a third drilling. Per Mr. Marro, in order to see if there is water, the county will need to put money into the site to cut a clearing and put gravel in for an entry road so Mid Georgia could get in and drill the holes. Mr. Marro said that the needed authority from the Board of Commissioners to do this. Chairman Fry said that he didn't need to do any improvements on his property in order to get large well drilling equipment onto his farm. Mr. Marro said that he understood that and there might not be any cost to do this drilling, depending on where the drill sites will be but there will be a cost for the third well. Mr. Marro said that he had been advised by Mr. Goolsby that the county may have to do some work on the entryway to get the equipment in there. Mr. Marro said that he hadn't been out to the location. Tripp Brisendine said that a pipe would be needed. County Manager Marro said that a culvert would be needed. Mr. Brisendine said that he spoke with Mr. Dabbs this morning and there is a drilled well on the other side of the property for an old tenant house that he is willing to offer use of this well, at a last resort, to the county. Mr. Dabbs would rather that the county get its own water on the site but if it is impossible, he would be cooperative in putting in a water line easement. Commissioner Willis said that if a pipe was going to be installed, gravel would be needed, also.

MOTION

Commissioner Powers made the motion to amend the agenda under item 8, New Business, add a letter E for approval to improve the entrance to the fire department site for Hollonville. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

Also, Mr. Brisendine has offered information on how to check for radon at the site. This testing is usually done in a basement or cellar and the fire station is not going to have either a basement or a cellar. This would require a moderate modification of the construction.

2. Emergency response update. Mr. Marro said that emergency response is going in several different directions in Pike County currently. The Pike County Emergency Services committee has met twice and is scheduled to meet again next week. This

committee is reviewing emergency operations procedures. They are also reviewing procedures of the Emergency Operations Concept for the county. The procedures are very unclear at this time as to who is to do what. A conference call is scheduled for next week to discuss with AT&T to discuss telecommunications. District 4 GEMA is underway with their Pandemic Flu process. Mr. Marro said that this has been very well received within Pike County. The model being built in Pike County will be used by FEMA for other rural counties. Mr. Marro said that Pete Nelms will be helping with the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan which has a deadline of June 30, 2009.

3. Forthcoming Sign Ordinance recommendations. Mr. Marro said that there will be minor changes to the Sign Ordinance prior to the Second Reading.

**CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS,
DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEES-COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

District 1- Commissioner Willis had no report tonight.

District 2- Commissioner Swift suggested having Teresa Crow replace Cherry Thomas on the Board of Appeals and allowing John Hoover to act as chairman until a new appointment can be made.

MOTION

Commissioner Swift made the motion to have the one appointed (to the Board of Appeals) replace Cherry Thomas and John Hoover stays as chairman until he's replaced. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

District 3-Commissioner Powers had no report tonight.

District 4-Commissioner Garner stated was not present tonight.

Chairman Fry wanted to follow up on the \$80,000.00 collected in distributing the tax bills for the Board of Education. Chairman Fry asked if County Manager Marro had learned anything new about this. Mr. Marro said that Sean Townsend had talked to Ms. Donna Wynn, Pike County Tax Commissioner about this. Per Ms. Wynn, this is a fee that she is allowed to charge per state regulations but Mr. Marro had not done any follow up on this. Chairman Fry said that this had nothing to do with the Board of Commissioners; that the Board does not receive any of that money. If the BOE wants the Tax Commissioners office to send out these bills, then that's their charge for doing so. If they want to do them on their own, then they can send out a separate bill. Commissioner Swift said that he spoke with Donna Wynn and that it was in the computer. The State program automatically puts it in there. Commissioner Swift said that it is not required per statute. It was his understanding that all tax dollars that her office collects from local BOE taxes, they pay a 2 ½ % commission on that and that it goes into the Board of Commissioners office somehow. Mr. Marro said that he needs to check on this because if it does go into this office, he does not know how it is being

done. Mr. Marro said that there is not a line item on the revenue side.

**CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS,
DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEES-COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT**

County Attorney Morton said that the only thing he had to discuss tonight was the letter received from Judge Johnny Caldwell regarding the Jamie Weiss case. A meeting will be held on January 5, 2009 regarding this trial. Mr. Morton said that he will be present at this meeting and suggested that BOC members attend also. Mr. Marro said that this trial could be a huge unbudgeted item.

CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. David Brisendine III has requested that the Board approve the plat of survey of the Concord-Hollonville Fire Station using their sovereign immunity. The lot will be 1.5 acres which is less than county minimum. Mr. Brisendine said that he didn't get the plat approved for the Dabbs property at the last meeting. He was requesting that the Board approve the plats at this time. County Attorney Morton said that the Board of Commissioners was the platting authority. Mr. Brisendine requested that the Board approve the plat and then make a motion allowing the County Manager to sign the plat as approved. This would prevent a long and drawn out process, per Mr. Brisendine. Mr. Brisendine said that he has gotten quit claim deeds from all but one of the family members in lieu of compensation.

MOTION

Commissioner Swift made the motion to approve the plat dated 06 November '08, surveyed for Pike County Board of Commissioners 1.5 acres in land lots 213 and 236 which is an out parcel from the other lands that Dabbs family has filed in the deed books listed on the plat. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

Mr. Brisendine said that he is trying to get the closing completed on this property and wanted to do so tomorrow. Mr. Brisendine mentioned the settlement statement. This listed the expenses related to the purchase. Mr. Brisendine went over the statement with the commissioners. This included the appraisal that was needed. Mr. Brisendine included his fees for the title exam, getting the documentation together and recorded. This fee also included recording fees for deeds and the survey expenses for Steve Reeves. Commissioner Willis asked if Mr. Reeves hadn't already been paid. Mr. Brisendine asked if that cost could be included with the settlement papers. Commissioner Willis said that a check had been written to Mr. Reeves and wanted this looked into. Mr. Marro said that it was 1 ½ hours at \$95.00 per hour, not just 1 hour. County Attorney Morton suggested stating that this was paid outside of closing. Mr. Brisendine said that this could be done that way. Mr. Brisendine asked the Board to authorize County Manager Marro to sign the settlement papers.

MOTION

Commissioner Swift made the motion to authorize Steve Marro to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners for the final closing statement for the Hollonville–Pedenville Fire Station property. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

B. David Brisendine III to talk to the Board about the old school building and what the estimated time to close the property is. Mr. Brisendine discussed the old school building at this time. County Manager Marro said that the school board showed no enthusiasm regarding moving forward with this project. They had requested that they would give us the property where the old school is in return for Pike County building the Board of Education a new bus barn. Commissioner Swift said that the School Board should sell the property to the county for \$1.00. Chairman Fry said that he can go to the State and see if the building couldn't be listed as surplus property. Commissioner Powers asked why the county should buy the building and then turn it over to the IDA. Mr. Brisendine said that the DDA is involved, not the IDA. He said that the DDA just doesn't want to let the building further deteriorate.

C. Request for approval of installed buffer fence for McNair Construction. Chairman Fry said that this looks like a good buffer. Commissioner Powers said that Mr. McNair has done all that he can do.

MOTION

Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the installed buffer fence for McNair Construction. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

At this time, Mr. Jerry O'Neal from Georgia Broadband asked if he could speak to the Board. Mr. O'Neal admitted that he was a bit defensive at the last meeting. He said that when he took over Georgia Broadband, there were only 50 channels; now there are 68. He mentioned that the former 'local' TV station was in Hampton. Now, Pike County has a local channel. Mr. O'Neal said that he needs specific complaints before he can do anything about them. Mr. O'Neal said that Georgia Broadband has run new fiber into all of the Pike County schools. Per Mr. O'Neal, complaints don't need to come to the Board of Commissioners. They need to go directly to Georgia Broadband.

CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR NEW BUSINESS

A. David Brisendine III is asking the Board for permission to use the Courthouse Lobby on Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm for the children to meet Santa during the Downtown Development Authority's Christmas on the Square. Mr. Brisendine had requested that this be removed from the agenda.

B. Mrs. Priscilla Hollis would like permission to use the Courthouse grounds on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at noon to release balloons in honor of John Hollis' 60th Birthday. Mrs. Hollis would also like permission to cook hot dogs and hamburgers for those attending the ceremony.

MOTION

Commissioner Willis made the motion to allow Priscilla Hollis to use the courthouse grounds on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at noon to release balloons in honor of John Hollis' 60th birthday. Mrs. Hollis would also like permission to cook hotdogs and hamburgers for those attending the ceremony. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

C. Lieutenant Adam Sampler, Pike County Dive Team Commander has requested that the Pike/Spalding County Underwater Evidence Recovery Team be given donation rights to use the old Williamson fire station as their headquarters for training and housing of equipment and apparatus. Lt. Sampler spoke to the Board regarding storage of their equipment at the old Williamson fire station. Commissioner Willis asked who owns the Williamson Fire Station. Chairman Fry said that the Pike County Board of Commissioners owns it. The equipment is currently stored in Spalding County. Chairman Fry recused himself during this conversation citing future possible conflicts of interest.

MOTION

Commissioner Powers made the motion to allow the Pike/Spalding County Dive Team use the former Williamson station #6 building in the city limits of Williamson. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 3-0-1 vote with Chairman Fry abstaining due to a possible future conflict of interest.

D. Commissioners to determine which two (2) Commissioners signatures will go on payroll checks beginning January 1, 2009.

MOTION

Commissioner Swift made the motion to put Don Collins and Doug Mangham's signatures on payroll checks beginning January 1, 2009. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

E. Approval to improve the entrance to the fire department site for Hollonville Fire Station for the purposes of ingress/egress.

MOTION

Commissioner Swift made the motion that the road department invest as little money as necessary to allow access to the fire department site at the Hollonville site. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Jim Totten to advise Commissioner and the public that 15 people passed the First Responder Class. 14 will go on for National certification. Mr. Totten said that 29 people signed up for First Responder Training. Due to attrition, 15 people completed the program. 14 will go on to national certification. The 15th is not eligible for national

certification until he turns 18 years old. With 15 more First Responders in service, this quickens the response time. Mr. Totten said that they have had to use the AED's now three times in a short period of time.

B. Jimmy Bass to discuss "County Manager" Mr. Bass stated that he wanted to see the County Manager moved up to professional grade.

CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION-PERSONNEL PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6)

- Public Works
- Fire Department
- Planning and Development

MOTION

Commissioner Powers made the motion to exit Regular Session and enter into Executive Session at 7:45 pm. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion. 4-0 vote

MOTION

Commissioner Swift made the motion to exit Executive Session and re-enter Open Session at 8:13 pm. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

As a result of Executive Session:

MOTION

Commissioner Swift made the motion to accept the recommendation of the County Manager regarding the vacancy of the department head at Planning and Development. The recommendation is to hire Mr. David Allen as the Director of Planning and Development department. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

MOTION

Commissioner Powers made the motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

**Chairman Steve Fry
Pike County Board of Commissioners**

ATTEST:

**Steve Marro
County Manager**